



Cal EMA
CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 14, 2009

Cal EMA CONTACT

Jay Alan, Director of Communications
(916) 322-1556; (916) 825-6544

Cal EMA Acting Secretary Bettenhausen Addresses Need For Cyber Security Vigilance And Action

SACRAMENTO – As part of National Cyber Security Awareness Month, California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) Acting Secretary Matthew Bettenhausen today addressed the Cyber Security West '09 Conference in Sacramento and challenged Californians to take the threat of cyber security seriously.

"Whether it's rogue individuals or nation-states, we've seen the damage that can be done by cyber attacks", said Bettenhausen. "Planning and thinking ahead can make a difference when facing these threats or when disaster strikes."

Acting Secretary Bettenhausen outlined the steps being taken by Cal EMA along with the State's Information Office to strengthen and protect critical systems across the public and private sector. Cal EMA is teaming with the California Office of The Chief Information Officer (CIO) on a number of projects that will provide guidance and strategy designed to strengthen our cyber infrastructure, and develop ways to recover quickly from any cyber attack.

California was selected as one of three states to participate in a \$4 million cyber security program sponsored by the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The program, called the Community Cyber Security Maturity Model, will instruct participating communities like Palo Alto, Sacramento, as well as the State, on how best to prevent or respond to terrorist attacks against information networks.

"We're striving to bring the government and private sectors together, along with all our residents, in this cyber security effort. It's vital to protect our critical infrastructure and in protecting our way of life in California, so our State remains a place where businesses and people live well and thrive" said Bettenhausen.

The Sixth Annual National Cyber Security Awareness Month is sponsored by the federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This year's theme is "Our Shared Responsibility", to reinforce the message all computer users, not just industry and government, have a responsibility to practice good "cyber hygiene" and to protect themselves and their families at home, work or school.

For further information regarding the California Emergency Management Agency please visit our website, www.CalEMA.ca.gov.

-Cal EMA-

###